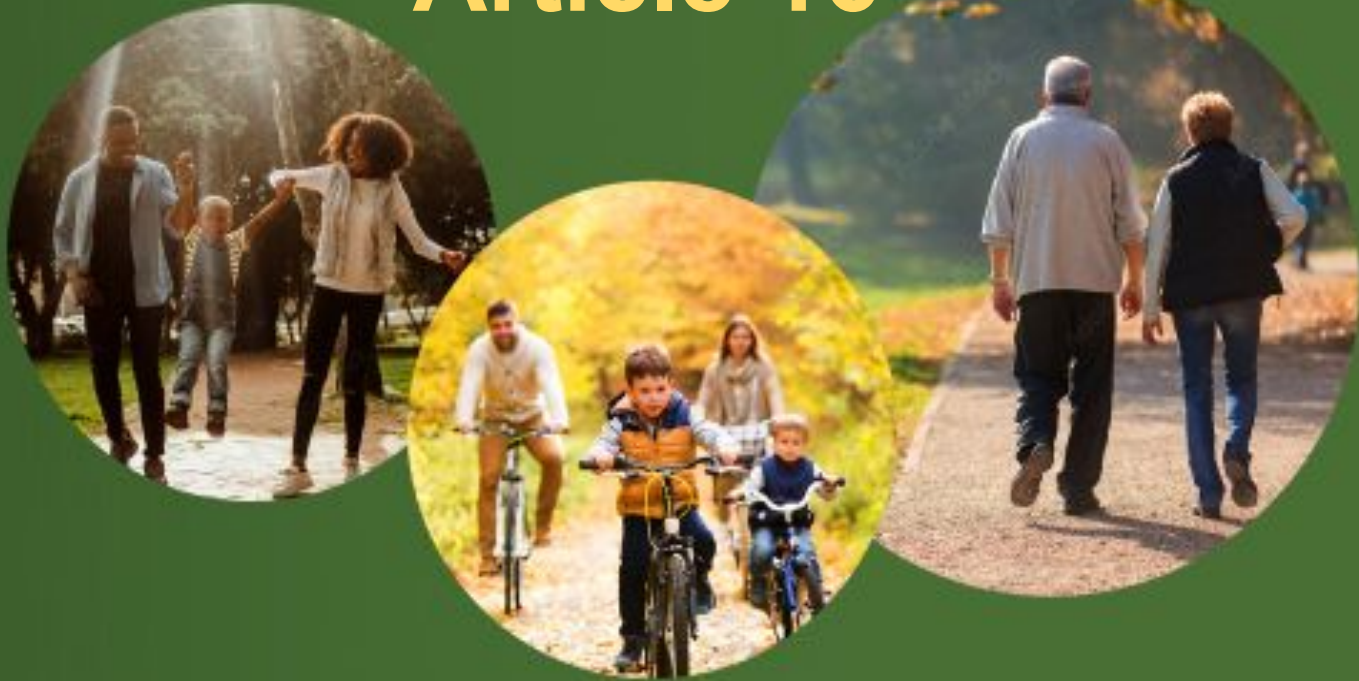


# Article 16



Transitioning away from gas powered leaf blowers  
for a quieter, healthier Arlington

*[quietthehealthyarlington.org](http://quietthehealthyarlington.org)*

# What is Quiet, Healthy Arlington Proposing?

**Complete phase out** of gas powered leaf blowers by:

- March 2025 for commercial landscapers and the Town
- March 2026 for residents.

**Summer season restriction**

- During the transition period, May 2022- March 2025.
- During this period, gas powered leaf blowers would be allowed only March 15 - May 31, and Sept 15 - Dec 30, for spring and fall cleanups.

**Enforcement through the Board of Health**

**Amendments** to the Article as approved by the Select Board.

# What's so bad about gas powered leaf blowers?

Extreme Noise

Damage to Health

Pollution

Climate Change



# What about the landscapers?



*[quiethealthyarlington.org](http://quiethealthyarlington.org)*

**Low noise, low emission commercial grade electric equipment is affordable and effective.**



*[quiethealthyarlington.org](http://quiethealthyarlington.org)*

# What about residents?

Consumer  
Reports  
current top  
recommended  
leaf blowers

## Electric Handheld

\$65.00

Rating: 81



[Toro 51624](#)

## Gas Handheld

\$270.00

Rating: 78



[Stihl BG 86 C-E](#)

# What about the Town?



Bike Path



Parks and Fields



Schools

# Why Now?



**Our current bylaw is complicated to understand and enforce.**

**Once we understand the negative effects, we must act to protect public health.**

**There are now viable alternatives.**

**The climate crisis creates an imperative.**

**We envision a quieter, healthier Arlington for everyone!**



*[quietthehealthyarlington.org](http://quietthehealthyarlington.org)*

# **Quiet Healthy Arlington's Proposed Amendments**

1. Seasonal Restriction Dates
2. Commercial/Town Restrictions
3. Exception for Some Town Properties
4. Residents Restrictions

**Amendment 1:** To amend the recommendation of the Select Board by adding the following change to Section 3.D.2 of Title V, Section 12 of the Town Bylaws:

To change "June 15" to "May 31" so that the amended bylaw would read, in part, as follows:

**2. The use of gas powered leaf blowers is prohibited between ~~June 15~~ May 31 and September 15th** except in accordance with the following restrictions...

*This change conforms to the May 31 dates proposed by the Select Board elsewhere.*

**Amendment 2:** To amend the recommendation of the Select Board by adding the following change to Section D.2.A of Title V, Section 12 of the Town Bylaws:

To add language to this section so that it reads:

(a) Commercial and Municipal Users Transition Period: **May 31, 2022 – March 15, 2025**

During the transition period, gas powered leaf blowers may be operated by commercial landscape companies and the Town **only between the calendar dates of March 15th – May 31st and September 15th – December 30th, at the following times:**

- (i) Monday-Friday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm;
- (ii) Saturday, 8 am – 4 pm;
- (iii) Use is prohibited on Sunday and Legal Holidays.

*This change clarifies the dates of the seasonal restriction during the transition period , and that the seasonal restriction applies to Commercial Landscapers and the Town.*

**Amendment 3:** to amend the recommendation of the Select Board by adding the following change to Section **D2(b)(i)** of Title V, Section 12 of the Town Bylaws:

To add the words “**of an acre or more**” so the amended bylaw would read, in part:

“The Town may use wheeled leaf blowers powered by four-stroke engines for the purposes of clearing the Minuteman Bikeway and other municipal property **of an acre or more**;

*This change clarifies the intention of this restriction as approved by the Select Board*

**Amendment 4:** to amend the recommendation of the Select Board by making the following two changes to D(2)(a), relating to Commercial and Town users, replace Section D (2)(c), of Title V, Section 12 of the Town Bylaws:

A. Section D2a: to add language to the section so that it reads:

(c) Resident Users Transition Period: May 31, 2022 – March 15, 2025

During the transition period, gas powered leaf blowers may be operated by residents while on their own property **only between the calendar dates of March 15th – May 31st and September 15th – December 30th**, during the following times:

(i) Monday through Friday, 7:30 am – 6 pm;

(ii) Saturday, Sunday and Legal Holidays, 8 am – 4 pm.

*This change clarifies the restrictions that apply to residents, and makes the format consistent with that proposed in Amendment 2*

B. Section D2c: to delete the following section:

a) The use of leaf blowers is prohibited on:

(i) Sundays and legal holidays;

(ii) Mondays through Fridays except between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; and

(iii) Saturdays except between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

*This change removes a section that has been replaced by other statements of the days and hours of use.*